

Master Plan Articles in the *Andover Beacon*

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Master Plan Update Committee Andover Cable TV Channel 8

By Paul Currier

Master Plan Update Committee

How much land area in Andover is "buildable"? How much of that is already built on, or protected, and how much is available for future development? What lands should be left undeveloped? By what ground rules? The Andover Master Plan Update Committee, in cooperation with the Conservation Commission, is working on answers to these questions.

On Election Day, the Committee hosted a Master Plan table at the school gym. One digitally produced map of tax-numbered lots showed areas of wetlands and steep slopes that make the land unbuildable. (That map, a preliminary draft from Lakes Region Planning Commission (LRPC), can be seen during normal office hours at the town office meeting room.) This map was made using Geographic Information System (GIS) technology and the new digital tax maps. As a next step, LRPC

will identify land already built on, and produce a map showing the remaining land that can be developed in the future, under present zoning rules.

At another display table, the Conservation Commission asked people to identify their special areas in town. GIS technology will be used to map this information as well. All of this information, together with input from Andover residents to be collected in a town-wide survey, will be incorporated into the updated Master Plan, scheduled to be drafted before Town Meeting 2007.

Volunteers are needed for the Committee, particularly those with analytical and writing skills. The Committee meets on the fourth Monday of every month, at 7:30 at the Town Office. The public is always welcome as observers or active participants. Anyone interested in being part of the Master Plan update process can also get in touch with Paul Currier (735-5280) or Doug Boisvert (735-5218).

It's "Fabulous '50s" For The 4th

By Judy Perreault

Fourth of July Committee

Well, the votes are in and the parade theme winner by a large margin is "Fabulous '50s." Time to dig out those poodle skirts, saddle shoes, and '50s clothes. Fortunately or unfortunately, some of us remember those days only too well. For the rest of you, hit the library, the Internet, or rent some of the old TV shows like *Happy Days* or talk to someone who's experienced those good old days. Put your thinking caps on and I'm sure you'll get lots of good ideas for an entry in the parade.

A float is a good way to advertise your business, club, church, or any other organization. It's fun, and you may win a prize. We have eight categories of prizes. First prize through fourth prize go to theme floats. In addition there are prizes for Most Unique, Most Decorated, Best Costumes, and Most Patriotic. (These categories may be theme or not.)

We will be sending notices to those

who have participated in the parade in the past, but if you haven't, you may just show up that day and fill out a form.

For flea market space you need to preregister with Howard Wilson at 735-5427. Space is going fast, so don't delay.

We also need one vendor to set up at parade headquarters behind Farrell Field House from about 9 AM to 1 PM, mainly to sell drinks, snacks, and maybe sandwiches. The parade people get hungry and very thirsty. You can catch them before and after the parade.

We are always looking for new groups or talent for our Fourth of July celebration – marching groups, bands, animals, performers, etc. – so if you see or know anyone, please call either Judy Perreault at 735-5493 or Craig Perreault at 735-5401 and we will follow up.

We will also have a Children's Parade under the able leadership of Sara Tracy-Arone, as well as antique cars, trucks, and our local fire engines. Help us make this a memorable Fourth of July!

By Charlie Darling

Channel 8 Station Manager

Andover's Community Access Cable TV station (Channel 8) continues to bustle with activity.

New Public Equipment

The public edit suite, downstairs in the Town Hall, has a new iMac computer that Andover residents are invited to use for editing their home movies. Or if you're not "computer friendly," the public edit suite also has a newly-upgraded editing machine that's very easy to use. If you're interested or have questions, contact the station (see below).

AE/MS Video Club

Andover's Channel 8 has donated a video editing machine to the AE/MS Video Club. It's just like the one in the public edit suite, but having one at the school makes it much more convenient for the Video Club to edit the school assemblies and other events that they tape. Channel 8 also donated a wireless microphone and a tripod to make the Club's video productions easier and better.

SHARE Day

Channel 8 will be offering two workshops at AE/MS on May 22, SHARE Day. The first will be a hands-on workshop about shooting video. The second will be a hands-on workshop about editing the video we shot in the first workshop.

As we get better at doing these workshops, we hope to offer them to the

public (and especially to the many non-profit organizations in town) so that we can have more shows about interesting events and other aspects of life in Andover on Channel 8.

Bulletin Board

For years, Tay Clark has done a great job keeping Channel 8's Community Bulletin Board up to date. The Cable TV Committee would like to thank her for all her hard work.

Now that Tay is laying low due to health concerns, Channel 8 is looking for a volunteer to update the bulletin board every week. It's done on a computer at the station, using a program that lets you change existing bulletin board items or create new ones. If you'd like to see how the program works before you decide, just contact us for a demonstration.

You can contact Andover's Community Access Cable TV station at Charlie@AndoverCableTV.com or 735-6099.

School from page 5

"That's just too damn bad," he said.

Hiller said the cost of the article - \$25,000 - would amount to an increase in the tax rate of about 10 cents per \$1,000 of assessed value. [This gives us a final school tax rate of \$10.68, up 18.5% from last year.]

The article passed by a ballot vote of 39 to 31.

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Andover Town Clerk Swap Season Starts May 10

By Marj Roy
Town Clerk & Tax Collector

New Hampshire State Law (RSA 466:1) requires every owner of a dog three months old and older to license that dog with the Town Clerk before April 30 of each year. Licenses renewed after May 31 will include a \$1 per month late fee.

To everyone who has licensed their dog – Thank you! For all other dog owners, you may license in person or through the mail with up-to-date rabies information and neutering or spaying certificate. Payment should be made to the Town of Andover. Please enclose a stamped, self-addressed envelope. Our mailing address is:

Town Clerk
PO Box 61
Andover NH 03216

License Fees

\$2.00 First dog for owners 65 years or older (additional dogs, regular fee)
\$2.00 License transfer from an-

other town
\$6.50 4-7 month old dogs
\$6.50 Dogs over 7 months old, spayed/alterd
\$9.00 Dogs over 7 months old, not spayed/alterd
\$20.00 group license (five dogs or more)

Cash Customers

Please note: Due to the limited amount of cash we keep in the office, we request that you pay for motor vehicle transactions, dog licenses, dump stickers, etc. with nothing larger than \$20 bills. We frequently have to make a trip to the bank for small bills so that we can make our daily deposits for the Town and the State. When we close at 6:30 PM, deposits can't be done until the next morning, and they must be completed before we can serve our first customers of the day.

Of course, if you choose to pay your taxes with cash, larger bills can be accepted.

We appreciate your cooperation.

By Vicky Mishcon
Andover Recycle Committee

Hooray! It's almost swap season at the Andover Transfer Station. The Recycle Committee will be sponsoring its first swap day of the year on Saturday, May 10, from 8 AM to 2 PM at the Andover Transfer Station. Andover residents will be able to drop off reusable items from 8 AM until 1 PM.

Volunteers from the Recycle Committee will oversee the event and will be the final authority on what can be dropped off and what cannot. Everything must be gone by the end of the day – whatever is left over will be thrown away.

Reusable items in working condition are welcome:

- Clothing
- Toys
- Books
- Bicycles
- Kitchenware
- Yard toys, etc.

Please, none of the following:

- Upholstered furniture

- Electronics
- Windows, doors, porcelain fixtures
- Tires

If you have items such as electronics, furniture, etc., please see one of the Transfer Station attendants for proper disposal. There is a complete list inside the Recycle Building of items which require a small disposal fee.

If you are interested in volunteering for the event, please call Susan Schnare at 735-5389. Volunteers are usually scheduled for two-hour blocks, but less is fine, too. Please join us!

Inspector from page 14

be interrupted in any way.

- Remember, some approvals and permits may be required by the state, not the town.
- Plan time for us to get out and do your inspections. They are important and for your safety.

The Building Inspector's new hours are Tuesdays from 6 PM to 7 PM.

Conservation Commission

By Tina Cotton
Andover Conservation Commission

Last month in the *Beacon*, I alerted readers about changes in state wetlands and shorelands rules and forms that were scheduled to take effect April 1. You can read the article online at AndoverBeacon.com/online.asp. It's on page 19 of the March 2008 issue.

Further action by the legislature may postpone the April 1 effective date. A summary of salient features has been posted on the bulletin board in the Town Office waiting room. You should check with the DES for more substantial and up-to-date requirements on their Web site at DES.state.nh.us/cspa/ and DES.state.nh.us/wetlands/.

Master Plan Update Committee

By Paul Currier
Co-Chair, Master Plan Update

The Master Plan update is taking shape. In a preview of the draft document displayed on March 11 during voting in the AE/MS gym, Andover residents had a chance to see preliminary recommendations for village, commercial, and light industrial uses. These three uses were identified as priorities during last year's visioning process, and the Master Plan Update Committee has been working on ideas for parts of Andover that would be appropriate for these uses.

Specifically, the committee recommends expanding Andover and Cilleyville village districts; creating three light industrial districts; and creating a commercial district.

The light industrial areas would be:

- along Route 11 between the junction of Route 4A and the Route 4 junction

- in the vicinity of Monticello Drive and Morrill Hill Road
- near the junction of Route 4 and Bay Road

The committee also recommends a commercial district along Route 4 toward Danbury from the junction with Route 11.

Recommendations for preserv-

ing and promoting an overall working landscape of farms and forests are also under development, as are ideas for preserving views and conserving our important natural resources.

All Andover residents are invited to join the committee in developing ideas for Andover's future landscape to be included in the Master Plan. We usually meet the fourth Monday of the month at the Town Office. Our next meeting is Monday, April 28, at 7 PM. You can contact committee co-chair Paul Currier at 735-5280 for more information.



Pat Frost

PO Box 222
East Andover NH 03231
Phone: 735-6423
Fax: 735-5664



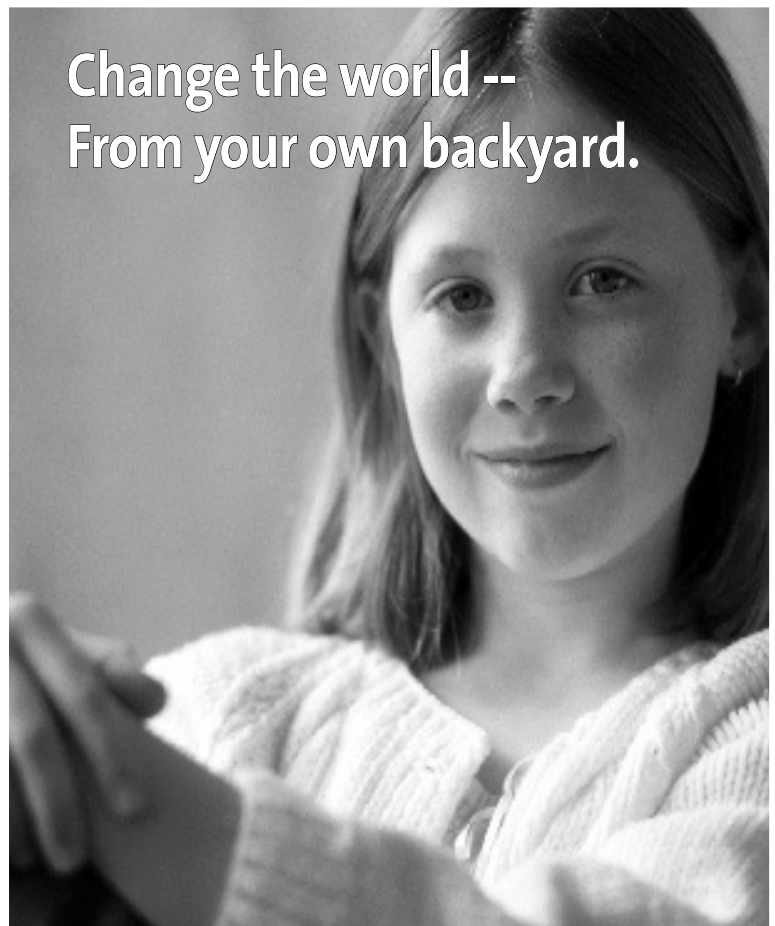
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The Swap Shop will be open on August 8 from 8 AM to 2 PM and welcomes (before 1 PM) reusable items in working condition like toys, clothing, books, bicycles, and kitchenware. Please, **no** upholstered furniture, tires, windows, doors, electronics, or porcelain fixtures.



Andover Town Clerk

By Marj Roy
Town Clerk and Tax Collector

The Town Clerk and Tax Collector’s office will be closed on Monday, August 10 while I attend Town Clerk/Tax Collector Certification classes.

State Surcharge

As you are probably aware, the state legislature has passed legislation requiring a surcharge for the registration of motor vehicles, trailers, motorcycles, and boats as well as initial plates, transfer fees, and certified copies of registrations. Town fees will remain the same. Renewal reminders may be in the mail a little later than usual, as we are waiting for the Department of Motor Vehicles to make the necessary changes to reflect the correct amounts.

The following changes will be effective on or before August 1:

Certified Copies of Registrations:

The state fee for a certified copy of a registration (boats included) has increased from \$10 to \$15.

Boat Registration State Fees:

- Up to and including 16 feet has increased from \$12 to \$24.
- 16.1 feet to 21 feet has increased from \$17 to \$34.
- 21.1 feet to 30 feet has increased from \$26 to \$52.
- 30.1 feet to 45 feet has increased from \$36 to \$72.
- 45.1 feet and over has increased from \$46 to \$92.

The lake restoration and preservation state fee has increased from \$5 to \$7.50.

Boat Registration State Transfer Fees:

The minimum state fee to transfer a boat registration has increased from \$3 to \$5.

Initial “Vanity” Plates:

The vanity plate state service fee has increased from \$25 to \$40 per year for a renewal.

The vanity number plate state fee for new registrations, plate changes, etc. is now pro-rated at \$3.33 per month (\$40

for a renewal).

State Weight Surcharge:

This surcharge is in addition to the “normal” state fees based on weight. The state surcharge is to be printed on the registration in the State Fees section and the heading is to be listed as “Surcharge.”

For vehicles:

- 0-5,000 lbs: \$30 (\$2.50 per month) state surcharge
- 5,001-10,000 lbs: \$45 (\$3.75 per month) state surcharge
- 10,001-26,000 lbs: \$55 (\$4.58 per month) state surcharge
- 26,001-73,280 lbs: \$75.00 (\$6.25 per month) state surcharge

Weight State Fees:

For semi-trailers and automobile utility trailers:

- 0-1,000 lbs has increased from \$3 to \$8 (\$.66 per month).
- 1,001-1,500 lbs has increased from \$6 to \$11 (\$.91 per month).
- 1,501-3,000 lbs has increased from \$12 to \$17 (\$1.41 per month).
- 3,001-5,000 lbs has increased from \$24 to \$34 (\$2.83 per month).
- 5,001-8,000 lbs has increased from \$36 to \$46 (\$3.83 per month).
- 8,001 lbs and greater has increased from \$.60 per hundred lbs gross vehicle weight to \$.90 per 100 lbs GVW.

Motorcycle State Fees:

The state fee has increased from \$15 to \$25 (\$2.08 per month). The transfer state fee has increased from \$10 to \$25.

Please remember to enclose a self-addressed, stamped envelope when you mail your registration payment to us.

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Master Plan Update Committee To Present Land Use Chapter

By Paul Currier
Master Plan Update Committee

Mark your calendars for Monday evening, September 28! That’s the date the Master Plan Update Committee has set for a public presentation of the Land Use chapter of the revised Master Plan, at 7 PM at the Town Hall. This chapter is one of two required by state law. The first one, a Vision chapter, has been completed and was available at the March 2009 Town Meeting. Copies are available at the Town Office.

The Land Use chapter is the heart of the Master Plan. In this chapter are the statements and maps that give the Planning Board specific direction and advice for designing zoning and other land use ordinances and regulations that will accomplish the ideas set down in the Vision chapter.

According to state law, the Land Use chapter shall translate the vision statements into physical terms. It must show

existing conditions and the proposed location, extent, and intensity of future land use.

For example, the Vision chapter recommends creating commercial and light industrial districts. Where in Andover should they be? The Vision chapter also recommends that existing large forested areas with limited road access should be preserved as unfragmented forest blocks. Where are these large forest blocks, and what land use regulation mechanisms are appropriate for this?

The committee wants to make this a plan that really reflects the ideas of town residents for Andover’s future, and *we still need your help!* Anyone interested in helping draft the Land Use chapter can contact chairperson Paul Currier at 735-5280 or PCurrier@tds.net, or just show up. The committee usually meets on the second and fourth Mondays of the month. The public is always invited, and more committee members are needed.



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Master Plan Update Ponders Possibilities

By Paul Currier
Master Plan Committee

What are the most important issues for the future of Andover’s landscape that a new Master Plan should address? The newly-formed Andover Master Plan Committee tackled this question at its third meeting on November 29, led by co-chairs Paul Currier and Doug Boisvert.

One of the first tasks in the master planning process is to identify what Andover’s residents think the important issues are for our town’s future. Committee members started by asking themselves that question in a brainstorming session. We tried to get our ideas and opinions out and written down, in no particular order and without any evaluation. That will come later in the process.

Hot topics that committee members wrote down for further discussion were:

- Unplanned scattered residential development in the Forest and Agriculture has been occurring, and this is not desirable.
- Development brings in less income than the cost of Town services. The Master Plan should create a process to encourage commercial and light industrial growth to build the tax base and local jobs.
- Cluster housing (i.e. condominiums, common wall buildings) should be enabled, to protect large blocks of open space.
- The dollar value of homes can drive demand for services. High-value homes mean more high-school-age children.
- Development affects infrastructure. More Town services are needed.
- The Village District(s) needs to be enlarged to provide room for growth.
- Approval of Forest and Agricultural development is common, even though it's a Special Exception in the current zoning ordinance.
- The age distribution of Andover residents should be considered, as different age groups require different Town services. For example, young families with school-age children, elderly residents needing assistance.
- Andover should plan for additional available cemetery plots because of population growth and an aging population.
- Adult communities (planned, compact developments catering to older adults with no or grown children) should be allowed in Andover because they build the tax base without requiring as many Town services.
- Growth shouldn't be allowed to push out families due to high taxes and high house values.
- Andover currently does not allow new private roads. Should this be reconsidered? Roads in developments should provide their own maintenance and repair services if allowed.
- All development is road-frontage and isolates backland. This impacts safety.
- Emergency and Town service facilities (police, fire, highway) should be centralized. Consider consolidating the two fire districts.

- Run any new zoning boundaries along tax map parcel lines. The current zoning boundaries often split parcels, which makes property use planning difficult.
- Range of lot sizing differences (i.e. 1-acre area vs. 2-acre area zoning).
- Bradley Lake, the source water for the Andover Village Water Precinct, should be protected, especially in light of the new and increased development on lakeshore lots.
- Town-owned, centralized sewer system for Andover Village?
- Can development increase in Andover Village without a sewer system?
- Should the Andover Village public water system be expanded by extending water lines and increasing the service area?
- What are the capital investment requirements for a sewer system?
- Tie into Franklin sewage system?
- What provisions or restrictions should be on home businesses? Some home businesses, like auto repair, might not fit well with the other residential character in some areas.
- Consider mixed-use zoning, where a mixture of residential, commercial, and light industrial would be allowed?
- Do we want strip commercial development in Andover? Where or where not? Would we ever want this?
- Revisit the additional special exception provision of the Zoning Ordinance. This allows pretty much any use in any zone by Special Exception, and there are very few specific criteria in the current Master Plan for the ZBA to base decisions on.
- Create additional village district(s)?
- Revisit all village district centers (i.e. Andover; Cilleyville-Potter Place; West Andover; East Andover). Should they exist at all? Should they be expanded?
- Acknowledge an “educational district” for Proctor with room to expand.
- Future school district needs - High School? Expansion? Relocate?
- School plan, Master Plan, and Capital Improvement Plan must be in sync.
- Long term planning for high school for Andover students should consider all options – joining existing cooperative school districts, long term contracts, creating our own high school.
- Take a position on New Hampshire Department of Transportation plans for the future. Is a Route 4/11 bypass of Andover Village needed or desirable?
- Alternate routes through town. If Main Street is closed there is no alternate route.
- Review Town roads, including Class VI. Consider an overall plan for a future Town road network.
- What would you put on the list? Think about it, and we hope you'll share your thoughts with us.
- The Committee plans to have several opportunities for residents to share their ideas and opinions. If you'd like to know more about the master plan-

Improvements Planned For Ball Fields

By Howard George
Andover Recreation Committee

A lot of hard work and money has gone into Corson Field and Blackwater Park over the last 30 years. Our town has grown and changed a lot in those years, too.

The Andover Recreation Committee and many volunteers from the community have worked hard to see that our athletic fields have continued to meet the town’s growing needs for a safe, convenient place to play, and a place we can all be proud of.

Corson Field and Blackwater Park are used all year round by many different groups, including:

- three girls softball teams
- six Little League teams
- adult softball teams
- Proctor’s girls softball team
- Middle School soccer
- Rec Committee soccer teams
- adult soccer
- town skating rink

Now it’s time for another round of improvements to our fields. The Rec Committee has developed the following “to-do” list of things to accomplish over the next couple of years.

Get Off Village Water. Currently, both Corson Field and Blackwater Park are being irrigated with treated water from the Andover Village District. The District provides drinking water to about 90 homes in the center of Andover, and using the District’s treated water is wasteful of their limited resources and sometimes puts a serious strain on their system.

To solve this problem we need to pump our own water directly from the Blackwater River. One of the important improvements we’ve made in years past is an efficient underground sprinkler system for each field. Now it’s time to cut them loose from the District’s water supply.

A Multi-Use Building. Our plan for pumping water from the river is to use a submersible pump that can live right in the river on the end of the water line. But the system will need a pressure tank to maintain water pressure as the water gets sprayed on the fields. And the pressure tank should be in a building.

As long as we need a building, we might as well make it serve all our needs. So in addition to housing the pressure tank, we’re planning a structure at Blackwater Park that will include:

- a bathroom
- a snack bar
- storage for athletic equipment

A Septic System. If we’re going to have a bathroom we’ll have to have a small septic system, of course.

Better Parking. As Blackwater Park gets more and more use, it’s time we improved the parking lot there.

Inserted in this copy of the *Beacon* you’ll find a letter asking for your financial help in making this happen. Please save the letter and send a donation for this important project as soon as you can.

Your tax-deductible contribution can be mailed to Andover Recreation Fund, PO Box 61, Andover NH 03216.

Hazard Mitigation Plan Coming

By Jane Hubbard
Hubbard Consulting

As natural and man-made disasters continue to make headlines, our own local community leaders are taking steps to reduce the effect of Andover’s next natural disaster. The Town recently applied for and received a grant from the New Hampshire Bureau of Emergency Management to develop a Hazard Mitigation Plan.

Mitigation is defined as any action taken to reduce or eliminate long-term risk to life and property from a hazard event. The ultimate goal of a Mitigation Plan is to save lives and reduce property damage as a result of natural and man-made hazards.

As an Andover resident myself, I will be working with a local Hazard Mitigation Planning Committee to develop the Hazard Mitigation Plan. This Plan will identify:

- Natural and man-made hazards
- Critical facilities
- Mitigation goals

ning process, you can talk to Paul Currier at 735-5280 or PCurrier@tds.net, or to Doug Boisvert at 735-5218 or DWBoisvert66@earthlink.net, or to any other member of the committee.

The Committee will be meeting at the Town Hall at 7 PM on the fourth Monday of the month from now on. The next meeting is January 24 and the public is welcome to attend.

- Projects for reducing hazards
- Once formally approved by the Federal Emergency Management Agency, the plan will make the Town of Andover eligible for future funding through the Department of Homeland Security and various grants through the Bureau of Emergency Management.

The first Hazard Mitigation Planning Committee meeting was held on November 29. Present were:

- Dennis Fenton, Selectman
- Mark Stetson, Town Administrator
- Glenn Laramie, Police Chief
- John Landry, Fire Chief
- John Thompson, Road Agent
- Ed Becker, Emergency Management Director
- Myself: Jane Hubbard, Hubbard Consulting

The second meeting was held on December 16. Two more Committee meetings will be held in January. The Plan will be completed no later than March 30.

The Committee would like any photographs or other historical information on past hazard events like fires, floods, blizzards, and so on for inclusion in the Plan. Anyone interested in the development of the Plan is encouraged to contact Town Administrator Mark Stetson at 735-5332.

Jane has developed emergency-management-related plans for dozens of communities throughout New Hampshire.

Master Plan Update Committee

By Paul Currier

Master Plan Update Committee

One of the basic principles that emerged from the Master Plan town-wide survey and visioning session is that we should promote and preserve Andover's working landscape of farms and forests. But how can we do this?

The Andover Conservation Commission consulted the Society for the Protection of New Hampshire Forests and the Cooperative Extension Service as they researched the practical minimum size for managing a forest tract for its timber. The answer they brought to November's Master Plan Committee meeting is about 20 acres.

The committee discussed the pros and cons of requiring a 20-acre minimum lot size in parts of Andover that are now predominantly forest. This is roughly the same as the existing Forest and Agriculture zone, where the minimum lot size is now 2 acres.

The main advantage is that large lot sizes would help preserve the forests and create incentive for timber management. The main disadvantage is that small lot subdivisions for residential development would not be allowed in much of Andover, limiting a property owner's options for use or sale of their land.

What do you think? Are there other ways to achieve the town's desire to preserve working forests?

The Master Plan Update Committee will be working on this question at its monthly meetings, as well as questions of implementing the other Master Plan basic principles:

- Maintain Andover's small town, rural character
- Encourage commercial activity that builds regional recreation and tourism
- Promote and preserve a working landscape of farms and forests
- Create specific zones for light industry and commercial activities
- Preserve viewsapes, especially along Andover's major highways
- Conserve natural resources
- Provide choices in housing types
- Preserve Andover's historical places and assets
- Plan for an integrated transportation system
- Coordinate with Proctor Academy on our respective plans for the future
- Develop community infrastructure in the village areas

Please join us. All Andover residents are invited to participate in the Master Plan Update Committee's work.

We usually meet the fourth Monday of the month at the Town Office. Our next meeting is January 28 at 7 PM. You can contact committee co-chairs Doug Boisvert at 735-5218 or Paul Currier at 735-5280 for more information.

CONSERVATION CORNER

By Tina Cotton

Andover Conservation Commission

Earlier this year I completed a survey compiled through the joint efforts of the New Hampshire Association of Conservation Commissions and the Center for Land Conservation Assistance within the Society for the Protection of New Hampshire Forests. In return I have received another copy of *Conserving Your Land – Options for New Hampshire Landowners* and the results of the survey. The booklet is an excellent resource for anyone thinking about putting some of their land in a conservation easement. Copies to borrow are at the Town Hall.

Response to the survey came from 98 town conservation commissions (CCs). Among the CCs reporting:

- 95% of them have a goal of protecting more land.
- 87% use all or some of the Current Use Change Tax for a conservation fund.
- 71% manage land owned by their

municipality.

- 35% of their municipalities have natural resource inventories.
- 25% have conservation plans.

Where does Andover stand in the percentages above? We can answer "Yes" to all of the above, but with a few qualifiers.

- The Andover Conservation Commission oversees very little, but some, management of Town-owned land.
- We have parts of a natural resource inventory done, but still should refine and annotate it.
- We are working on a conservation plan that can be incorporated within the ongoing Master Plan revision.

Nothing was mentioned in the survey about where the 98 responding towns are located. I think rural towns would have different responses and priorities than towns and cities in southeastern New Hampshire.

A follow-up survey will investigate conservation projects of towns. Stay tuned.

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Andover Service Club and Lions Club Award 18 Scholarships

By Lois Magenau
Andover Service Club

The Andover Service Club has just finished its scholarship program for the 2007/2008 academic year, and we are pleased to announce that \$11,000 was given out to 14 very deserving students. The recipients are listed below and are chosen based on their academic performance, character attributes, and community involvement.

It was a particular pleasure this year to award the annual Nicholas Meier Scholarship to Brandon Meier in memory of his brother.

I would like to thank all of those who applied for a scholarship and also the Andover Service Club members who worked on the Scholarship Committee with my co-chair, Diane Rice, and me.

See Awards on page 3

AndoverBeacon.com

July 2007

\$2.00

HAPPY FOURTH OF JULY!

Andover Fourth Of July Celebration Schedule Of Events

- JULY 3**
 - **6:30 PM:** Andover Girl Scouts lower the flag on the Village Green
- JULY 4**
 - **6 AM – 1 PM:** No parking on south side of Main Street between Jake's and Pizza Chef
 - **7 AM – 10 AM:** Lions Club Pancake Breakfast
 - **8 AM – 9 AM:** Firecracker 5K Foot Race registration at Blackwater Park
 - **8 AM – 5 PM:** Flea Market on the Village Green
 - **9 AM:** Firecracker 5K Foot Race on the Rail Trail starts at Blackwater Park
 - **9 AM – 11 AM:** Parade Registration at the Proctor Field House
 - **9 AM:** Closest to the Pin Drive to benefit Andover One Wheelers
 - **10 AM:** Opening Ceremonies at the Reviewing Stand on the Green
 - Flag Raising by the Boy Scouts and Girl Scouts
 - Invocation by David Grover
 - National Anthem sung by Margo Coolidge
 - **10:15 AM:** Firecracker 5K Foot Race awards at the Reviewing Stand
 - **10:30 AM:** Kearsarge Community Band at the Reviewing Stand
 - **11 AM:** Judging of parade entries
 - **11 AM:** Children's Parade Forms at the Pro-Claim Building

- **11:15 AM:** Andover One Wheelers at Lawrence & Main
 - **11:30 AM:** Judging of Children's Parade
 - **Noon:** Patriotic Medley sung by Margo Coolidge at the Reviewing Stand
 - **Noon:** Parade leaves Proctor Field House
 - **1 PM – 2 PM:** Concert by the combined Kearsarge Community Band and Andover Elementary/Middle School Band on Proctor's Holland Auditorium lawn
 - **1:30 PM - 4:30 PM:** Horse-drawn wagon rides starting at Town Hall
 - **1:45 PM:** Barnyard Bingo to benefit the Andover Outing Club
 - **2 PM – 3 PM:** The Livings Stones perform on Proctor's Holland Auditorium lawn
 - **6 PM – 10 PM:** AE/MS parking lot reserved for handicap-stickered vehicles only
 - **6 PM:** Andover One Wheelers sell food and drink behind AE/MS and at Carr Field
 - **6:30 PM – 8:30 PM:** Family Singers perform behind AE/MS
 - **7 PM – 8:30 PM:** Andover Service Club's Ice Cream Social on the Village Green
 - **Dusk:** Fireworks
- Rain date: July 5 (fireworks only!)



ANDOVER HIGH REUNION!

Reunion for all attendees and all classes
July 7 at 10 AM

Ordway Recreational Area
Walker Brook Road, South Danbury • Watch for balloons on Route 4.

Bring a pot luck dish, a chair, a bathing suit, and a home-made name tag. Also bring any AHS memorabilia, and a guest.

For more information:
Pat "Toots" Fleury • fleury@tds.net

FOURTH OF JULY PARKING

- From 6 AM to 1 PM there will be no parking on North Street nor on the south (eastbound) side of Main Street between Jake's Market and Pizza Chef.
- From 6 PM to 10 PM on July 4 the Andover Elementary/Middle School parking lot will be for handicap-stickered vehicles only.

UNH Presents Overview Of MPUC Survey Results

Charlie French of the University of New Hampshire Cooperative Extension Service has analyzed the surveys distributed by the Master Plan Update Committee earlier this year. The following is a brief overview he provided to the Committee in advance of his full report at the Committee's June 25 meeting. The meeting on the 25th, which also covered his report on the visioning sessions held on May 23, will be reported on in the August issue of the Beacon.

A Brief Overview

- 228 surveys completed
- 27% household response rate
- 56% of the respondents have lived in Andover for 15 years and longer
- 92% of the respondents are homeowners and live in Andover year-round.

Major Findings

From all the different aspects of Andover presented in the survey, the most valued by the respondents was the rural atmosphere (61%).

Natural amenities (12%), friendly atmosphere (10%) and quality of public schools (7%) are also clearly valued.

Partly due to the above reasons, 64% of respondents indicated that they would like to see clusters of industrial and commercial development in specific permitted zones.

Natural And Historic Character

See Survey on page 3

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Survey from page 1

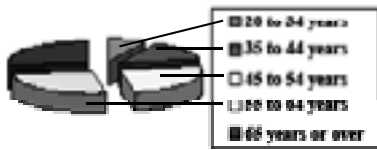
Overall, respondents agree that Andover provides sufficient support and/or resources for:

- Preservation of historic structures and/or areas (70%)
- Preservation of small-town character (81%)
- Preservation of scenic character (77%)
- Natural resource conservation (72%)

Community Services, Recreational And Cultural Opportunities

Overall, respondents agree that Andover provides sufficient support

Age of Respondents



and/or resources for outdoor recreation in general such as recreational trails, parks and recreation areas, playgrounds, athletic fields, and public access to Highland Lake (average of 66%).

However, the respondents would like to have more public access to Bradley Lake and Blackwater River as well as outdoor ice skating facilities, picnic areas, and cultural amenities such as museums, art center, etc. (average of 60% disagree or have no opinion about the original statement regarding the above-mentioned recreational assets).

Community Infrastructures And Town Regulations And Enforcement

Overall, respondents agree that Andover provides sufficient support and/or resources for:

- Transfer station (77 %)
- Road maintenance (73 %)
- Recycling (73%)
- Cemeteries (61%)
- Building code and enforcement (54%)
- Subdivision regulations and enforcement (53%)
- Public water supply (50%)
- Zoning regulations and enforcement (50%)

Services and Commercial Activities

Overall, respondents would like to see more small and local businesses (retail shops, bed & breakfasts, local restaurants, auto repair, etc. (average 80% in favor).

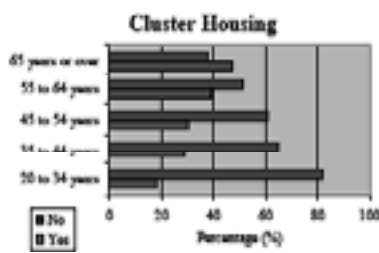
However, overall, respondents do not favor retail and restaurant chains, malls, professional office parks, hotels/motels, and recreational businesses (such as ATV track, campground, amusement park, etc.) (average 75% disagree).

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Housing Options

Overall, respondents would prefer to see single-family homes (61%) and senior housing (56%) over duplexes (32%), multi-family homes (13%) and



apartment buildings (8%).

The majority of respondents are concerned about the conversion of owner-occupied homes to apartments, manufactured/mobile homes, mobile home parks, and/or public housing.

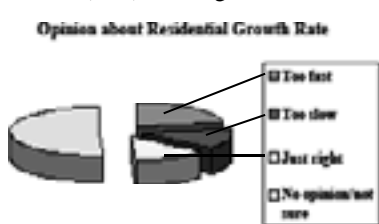
Cluster housing, which refers to several single-family units built on a small lot with shared common space, appears to be a more popular development strategy among older residents than younger residents. In spite of these results, respondents overall do not favor cluster development (55%).

Residential Growth

Over half of the respondents indicated that they have no opinion or are not sure how they feel about the current rate of growth.

Industries

The majority of respondents favor the development of home-based businesses (86%) and agriculture-related



businesses (93%) such as farms, greenhouses, farm stands, etc.

- They also would like to see more:
- Light industry (e.g. high tech) (61%)
 - Wind farms (59%)
 - Saw mills/wood processing (51%)

However, overall, they are not in favor of seeing the growth of the following industries:

- Gravel pits (56% said no)
- Auto salvage yards (75% said no)

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Awards from page 1

2007 Andover Service Club Scholarship Recipients

Kaitlin Marie Anderson
 Rubin L. Adams
 Gracia Marie Brown
 Danielle M. Cate
 James Matthew Coll
 Jonathan Norwood Coolidge
 Matthew M. Franklin
 Anne E. Hewitt
 Brandon Michael Meier
 Rebecca M. Smart
 Charles Douglas Veysey
 Samantha Michelle Veysey
 Jacob M. Wagner
 Jeremiah John Wagner

Andover Lions Club Scholarships

By Diane Rice

Andover Lions Club

The Andover Lions Club takes great pleasure in announcing the 2007 winners of the Andover Lions Club Scholarships.

The Nick Meier Memorial Scholarship of \$1,000 goes to **Samantha Veysey**, a recent graduate of Proctor Academy. Samantha will attend the University of Montana in Missoula in the fall.

The Steven Jewett Memorial Scholarship of \$500 was awarded to **Angela Pellegrino**, who received her diploma from Newfound Regional High School on June 9. Angela will continue her education at Plymouth State University.

The John Thompson Memorial Scholarship of \$500 was awarded to **Matt**

Coll. Matt graduated from Merrimack Valley High School and will be attending the Rochester Institute of Technology in Rochester, New York.

The Andover Lions Club Vocational-Technical Scholarship of \$500 was awarded to **Brandon Meier**. Brandon will continue his studies at the Universal Technical Institute in Norwood, Massachusetts.

The Lions Club joins the entire community in extending to these young people, and to all of Andover's graduating seniors, best wishes for their future success.

Got News?

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TOWN of ANDOVER Public Information Meeting on July 16

A public informational meeting will be held at 7:30 PM on Monday, July 16, at the Andover Town Office pursuant to NH State Law to cover the lowering of Highland Lake on or about September 4, 2007.

PO Box 61 • Andover NH 03216 • 603 735-5332

Andover Celebrates 4th of July

Every year, Andover attracts thousands of people to its 4th of July celebration. Whether it is the pancake breakfast to start the day, the service organizations' booths on the common, the children's parade followed by the big parade at noon, the pie-judging contest, the bands playing, or the flea market booths, there is something for everyone to enjoy and participate in during the day. At dusk there are fireworks galore, and it is a fitting conclusion to a busy, exciting, and enjoyable day.

That so many members of the community work so hard to put on this event is a tribute to the importance of Andover's social networks. Their participation every year and their families and friends joining with them to celebrate is what draws so many people each year. At this large gathering for a common celebration we are more alike than at any other time of the year. This makes Andover a wonderful place to live, and we thank all of you.

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Andover Town Clerk

By Marj Roy
Town Clerk & Tax Collector

What does your Town Clerk/Tax Collector do? I occasionally hear, "Well, all you do is register cars." That is not the case. Your Town Clerk/Tax Collector and Deputy have many responsibilities. Some of them include:

- vehicle registrations
- voter registration
- checklist maintenance
- absentee ballots
- filing and maintenance of all official Town records
- billing and collection of all taxes, including property, timber, gravel, and land use change taxes
- tax liens and deeds
- marriage licenses
- copies of birth, marriage, and death certificates
- dog licensing
- maintain genealogical archives
- issuing and recording Transfer Station/Town Beach decals

Mail-In Renewals

You may have noticed that our motor vehicle renewal reminders look a little different than they did last year. We are now generating the reminders from our Avitar Town Clerk software rather than using the State-generated forms. Our reason for switching was cost savings. The State charges towns for the service, but generating them from our software is free.

To cover printing and mailing expenses we do charge \$1 per page for the service. The fee is due whether you mail your renewal information or bring it in to us.

If you have more than one vehicle to renew, please combine the totals for all vehicles and write one check to the Town of Andover and one check to the

State of New Hampshire-DMV. If you no longer have a particular vehicle, you do not need to notify us.

Transfers

A transfer registration is when you have taken a vehicle (Vehicle A) off the road, and you are registering a new vehicle (Vehicle B). A transfer allows you to apply the unused portion of the permit fees from Vehicle A to Vehicle B's registration fee due and to use the same plates.

In doing a transfer, the owner of the new car and the old car must be the same. A second name can be added or deleted depending on the new title or bill of sale.

You must have the registration from Vehicle A. If you do not have the registration, we can print a certified copy from the DMV data base for a fee of \$12.50.

How To Reach Us

In the Town Clerk's office:

- Monday and Wednesday
9 AM to 2 PM
- Tuesday and Thursday
1:30 to 6:30 PM
- The last Saturday of the month
9 to 11 AM

By mail: Andover Town Clerk, PO Box 61, Andover NH 03216

By phone: 735-5332, extension 223

Is Your Birthday In July?

If your birthday is this month, you should have received your mail-in vehicle registration renewal forms in the mail by now. If you follow the instructions and mail them back to us, you won't have to come into the office.

If you come into the office, the state now requires you to *have your current vehicle registration in hand* for us to renew it. Please be sure to bring it with you.

Master Plan Update Committee

By Paul Currier
Co-Chair, Master Plan Update Committee

E-mail your ideas to the Master Plan Update Committee! What do you think rural character is? How would you preserve rural character in Andover? Please e-mail your answer to the new special Master Plan address at MasterPlan@TownOfAndover.org. Or you can mail your answer to Town of Andover, Master Plan Update Committee, 31 School Street, PO Box 61, Andover 03216.

Is rural character tree-lined roads with few visible houses? Or maybe what you experience walking around Andover Village? Or is it the wooded hillsides of Ragged and Kearsarge mountains which are pretty much uninhabited? Maybe its Potter Place with its old time railroad station, or East Andover Village with the houses along Maple Street? What's the most important ingredient of rural character to you? How would you preserve it?

Sixty-one percent of people responding to last year's survey said rural character is the thing they like most about living in Andover. In order to recommend land use actions in the updated Master Plan, the committee needs to get a better idea of what it is we want to preserve and maintain.

Right now, the draft plan says "The importance of maintaining rural char-

acter has been consistent through three Master Plans and more than 30 years of Andover's recent history. It is somewhat difficult to define just what rural character is, but in general it includes compact, walkable village areas with shops and services, and lots of open space in between – farms or forests with scattered houses and outbuildings that are not too visible. On the social side, it includes a 'sense of community' where there is opportunity for involvement in school activities, civic and cultural events, and town or village-oriented social occasions." But these words are just a start. What would you add or change?

Please e-mail your ideas on rural character. In coming months we'll need help with more questions as we continue to develop the Master Plan. Look for a new question each month! Thanks.

And we can always use your ideas in person. The Master Plan Update Committee usually meets the fourth Monday of the month at the Town Hall. Our next meeting is July 28 at 7 PM. You can contact committee co-chair Paul Currier at 735-5280 for more information.

Town Matters

The *Beacon* needs volunteers to help with reporting about town news. If you can help, call Charlie at 735-6099



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Ragged Ski Area Updates Planned

By Kate Davidson
Concord Monitor staff
Originally published May 23

[If you didn't know that Ragged Mountain Ski Resort was sold last month, see the article about the sale on page 3.]

The new owners of Ragged Mountain Resort plan to spend \$1.5 million to \$2 million this year on "massive upgrades" to the resort's snowmaking system and on long overdue golf course maintenance, the project manager told the Danbury Planning Board last night.

Gerald Jackson, one of three partners who purchased the resort, said its expansion could last at least 10 years and include condominiums, a swimming and tennis club, a fitness center, a children's adventure center, and expansion of the snowmaking and irrigation ponds to allow fishing or canoeing.

"We need to make it as close to a four-

season destination as possible," Jackson said, but he was careful to say that no plans have been finalized. "Right now, we know very little other than we have a lot of work to do," he said.

The company, Utah-based RMR-Pacific, is in the process of hiring employees – previous resort employees will have to reapply – and is conducting a national search for a resort general manager. Some cosmetic improvements to the lodges are already under way to help make the resort look "fresh and clean," Jackson said. The new owners hope to open the golf course by this weekend, but golfers should call ahead.

A major study of the course is planned, and it will probably need at least two years of work "to make it a terrific golf course," Jackson said. Major renovations, including a redesign of some holes, will be put off until at least

See Ragged on page 3



the Andover Beacon

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Three-Year Cycle Of Appraisal Inspections Continues

By Charlie Darling
Beacon staff

Last summer, representatives from Avitar Associates, under contract to the Town, conducted physical inspections of about a third of the properties in Andover. They were looking for obvious discrepancies between what they can see on a property and what the tax records showed.

The process continues this summer with another third of Andover properties to be inspected starting later this month. If yours is one of the properties selected for inspection this year, within a couple of weeks you should receive a letter letting you know you've been selected. In the weeks to follow a representative from Avitar, wearing a photo

ID, will visit you requesting information about your property. He or she will measure the exterior and will inspect the interior. The inspection itself will not result in a change to your assessed property value except to correct errors, or if the inspector finds changes have been made to your property.

All this is in aid of complying with a new state law that requires every municipality to keep the overall level of property value assessments within approximately 10% of the actual market value of the property. Keeping the Town's assessment database as up-to-date as possible is the most efficient and economical way to be sure we comply with the law and that everyone's assessment is as fair and accurate as possible.



Charlie French, a consultant from UNH, presents the results of the MPUC's survey of townspeople's visions for Andover. Photo: Bob Bussey

Master Plan Vision Meeting Looks To Andover's Future

By Paul Currier
Master Plan Update Committee

Andover's rural character is what people value most and desire to preserve, but there should be a better balance of housing options and greater options for appropriate businesses and industries to locate here. That's how facilitator Charlie French of the University of New Hampshire Cooperative Extension Service summarized an evening of focused discussion among about 40 Andover residents who turned out on May 23 for the Master Plan Visioning session.

During the evening, three focus groups –

- Recreation, cultural and natural resources
- Housing, land use, and zoning
- Business, industry, infrastructure, and transportation

– each identified the most important things that should be included in a vision chapter as the core of a new master plan..

Maintaining rural character was a common theme for all the groups. Here are some of the other ideas reported by the groups:

- Maintaining undeveloped, open space is important.
- Proctor Academy is a valuable town asset, including recreational and cultural opportunities and open space.
- Village centers should allow for growth.
- Lot sizes should be increased in remote parts of town to maintain open space, while cluster housing should be explored to preserve large blocks of open land.
- Appropriate, affordable housing for

See MPUC on page 2



The Joyful Joeys came to town on the second Wednesday in May, and their performance at the Andover Service Club's meeting that day will long be remembered. Gales of laughter rang through the Masonic Hall as the troupe of nine members performed their skits to the delight of the audience. Andover's own Coco the Clown, otherwise know as Arlyne French (center), brought down the house.

The Joyful Joeys is a clown troupe from Heritage Heights in Concord. They came to Andover to honor their dear friend, Arlyne, and to share the joy with her of performing for her club.

Caption: Diane Rice

Photo: Bob Bussey

Beach Cleanup Day - June 16

Do you like to use the town beach at Highland Lake?

How about bringing your rakes and shovels on Saturday, June 16, and helping clean up the beach and picnic area. Broken limbs and leaves have collected over the fall and winter. Lloyd Perreault

will be on hand with his tractor to carry off the debris.

The old saying, "Many hands make light work," is true. If we get a big crew, we should be done in short order.

If you have any questions, call Lloyd or Judy at 735-5493.

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Master Plan Update Committee

By Paul Currier
Co-Chair, Master Plan Update Comm.

The draft Master Plan Update is taking shape! If you voted in March, you may have seen the display table with previews. Now the hard work begins.

We know from last year's town-wide survey, filled out by more than 25% of Andover households, that most people here (61%) value our rural character above all else. They want home and agriculture-based small businesses (86% and 93% respectively), and they want to preserve the working landscape of farms and forests.

But they also think Andover needs to attract light industry (61%) and identify areas of town where light industry is allowed. (We don't have any now.)

The Master Plan Update Committee is charged with representing you, the people of Andover. Our job is to capture your attitudes and ideas about Andover's future landscape in the revised Master Plan.

It's no surprise that there is a diversity of ideas on the committee, just as there is a diversity of ideas among people in Andover. For example, we want to preserve the large forest blocks in the more rugged and remote parts of Andover.

How should we do it? Conservation easements are a good mechanism, but not every landowner is amenable, and easements cost public money to acquire and administer. Should we have large lot zoning to keep the forests?

Other examples: Small farms and home businesses scattered about the landscape sound good, but what about the conflicts between farming and residential uses? And where should we put those light industrial areas that the survey says people want? The discussions are underway.

We have set ourselves a deadline of the end of 2008 to have a draft of the revised Master Plan for public review. We continue to need more committee members. All Andover residents are invited to join the committee in developing the ideas for Andover's future landscape to be included in the Master Plan.

We usually meet the fourth Monday of the month at the Town Office. In May, that day will be celebrated as Memorial Day. Thus, we will meet twice in June – the second and fourth Mondays, June 9 and 23. You can contact committee co-chair Paul Currier at 735-5280 for more information.

Volunteer!

The Beacon is a non-profit organization that relies on volunteers for almost everything. Please do your part to keep our community newspaper going strong. To find a role that's right for you, call Charlie at 735-6099.



The Northeast Air National Guard Ceremonial Band will perform in Andover's Fourth of July parade this year.

Air National Guard Band To March In Andover Parade

By Judy Perreault
Andover Fourth of July Committee

The Northeast Air National Guard Ceremonial Band will be coming to Andover to be in our Fourth of July Parade. We were so fortunate that they were able to work us into their schedule.

The Air National Guard Band of the Northeast Ceremonial Band, an element of the Band of the Northeast, is one of the most requested units in the Air National Guard today. This group represents the Air National Guard in parades and ceremonies for both military and civilian functions. Andover resident Wayne Carmack played clarinet in the band until he retired a few years ago.

The Ceremonial Band performs throughout the band's primary geographic area of Massachusetts, New Hampshire, Vermont, Maine, Rhode Island, Connecticut, and eastern New York, as well as other areas of the United States. Since they have such a wide area and so many requests, you can see why the Committee is so pleased that we could arrange for them to be here on

the Fourth of July. Their audiences have included former Massachusetts Governor Mitt Romney, former New York City Mayor Rudy Giuliani, and numerous troops returning from overseas deployments. The Ceremonial Band has also performed before games of the Boston Red Sox, the Lowell Spinners, and the Hall of Fame game in Cooperstown, New York.

All members of the Air National Guard Band of the Northeast Ceremonial Band are professional Air National Guard musicians working in support of Air Force and Air National Guard ceremonial, recruiting, and community relations objectives.

MSgt. Charles Edgerly informed us there would be about 40 band members. They have a performance later in the day in North Conway and must leave immediately after they have marched. The Committee is providing them with a box lunch to have on the way to their next appearance.

I know you will give them a warm Andover welcome.

Subscribe!

There's no reason to miss out on Andover news, even if you don't live in Andover year round. For a minimum donation of \$25 you can have the *Beacon* mailed anywhere, even to a seasonal address.

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Chase Davis adjusts his tip-up rig at the Willis Nowell Memorial Kids' Ice Fishing Derby put on by the Andover Fish and Game Club at Eagle Pond last month.
Staff photo: Bob Bussey

Master Plan Update Chapters Ready For Public's Comments

By Paul Currier
Master Plan Update Committee

After almost five years of work, including a town-wide survey in 2007, the Introduction and Vision chapters of the new Master Plan are ready for public comment.

The Master Plan Update Committee expects to have copies of these draft chapters available at Town Meeting. All comments are welcome. In fact, the committee can't really do a good job finalizing the plan without feedback from Andover residents.

The survey and visioning session results have been distilled into ten guiding principles which are the heart of the new plan:

- 1) Maintain Andover's small town, rural character
- 2) Encourage commercial activity that builds on the regional recreation and tourism economy
- 3) Promote and preserve farming and forestry
- 4) Create specific zones for light industry and commercial activities
- 5) Preserve views, especially along

Andover's major highways

- 6) Conserve natural resources
- 7) Provide choices in housing types
- 8) Preserve Andover's historical places and assets
- 9) Partner with Proctor to integrate their plans for the future with the town's plans

10) Develop community infrastructure in the Village areas

The Introduction and Vision chapters explain the Master Plan process and summarize the major elements of a vision for Andover's future landscape. The committee wants to make this a plan that really reflects the ideas of town residents for Andover's future, but *we need your help!*

Anyone interested in commenting on the draft chapters can get copies at the Town Office or from chairperson Paul Currier at 735-5280 or PCurrier@tds.net.

The committee usually meets on the second and fourth Mondays of the month. The public is always invited, and more committee members are needed.


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To the 91 Andover residents who sent checks last month to support the *Beacon* in 2009: *Thank you!* Every check, no matter how large or small, is a big help and an important sign that the community values the *Beacon*.

Over 1,000 Andover households receive every issue of the *Beacon* at no charge throughout the year. If you're one of the households who hasn't made a voluntary donation yet, please use the form on page 2 and "get a round tuit" right away. Thanks!



AndoverBeacon.com March 2009 \$2.00

2009 Budgets Set For Annual Meetings

By Charlie Darling
Beacon staff

Budgets for 2009 for the Andover School District, the Town, and the Fire Departments have been finalized by the Budget Committee and will be presented to voters at the annual meetings. The finalized budgets are the same as discussed in detail in the front-page article in the February issue of the *Beacon*. [Every issue of the *Beacon* ever published can be read online at AndoverBeacon.com.]

Andover School District Budget

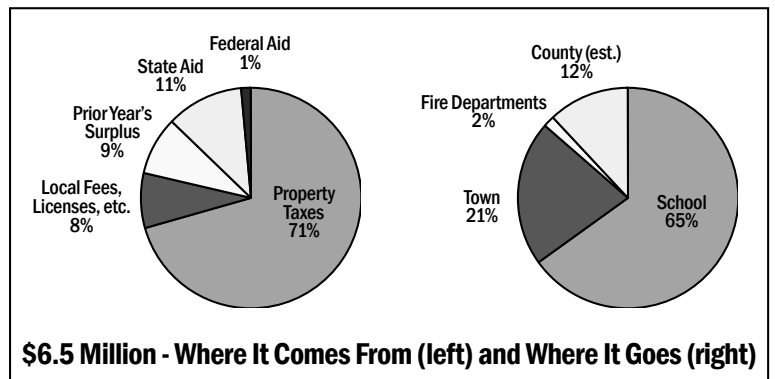
The proposed 2009 budget (net of any pass-through items that don't impact this year's tax rate) for the Andover School District is for a to-

tal appropriation of \$4.237 million.

This proposed 2009 budget represents an increase of nearly \$206,000 over the net appropriation of \$4.031 million voted for 2008. When expected revenues to offset taxes are taken into account, it is estimated that the tax rate (per thousand dollars of assessed value) for the school portion of the tax bill will go up from \$10.93 in 2008 to \$11.73 in 2009, an increase of 7.3%. This represents nearly 70% of the estimated 2009 total tax bill.

Ed Hiller of the Andover Budget Committee has this to say about the importance of the school budget:

"The school budget is a subject in
See Budgets on page 8



Hamp House Debate Moves To School District Meeting

By Meg Heckman
Concord Monitor staff

From the February 21 Concord Monitor

The future of the building that houses Andover's after-school program is a sore subject in town these days, one that's sure to come up at the district's annual meeting [on Monday, March 2].

At issue is Hamp House, a home next to the elementary school that has long been leased to the after-school program, which is a private organization run by volunteers. Most members of the school board want to evict the program when its lease expires in June. Reasons cited

include the building's safety and plans to eventually expand the elementary school.

The after-school program's organizers, however, say the board is being unfair. Two engineers' reports and a recent fire inspection showed that Hamp House is safe, they say, and they're willing to pay for some upgrades. Andover, they say, is unlikely to expand its elementary school anytime soon. A construction bond failed a few years ago, and another one is unlikely to surface soon.

See Hamp House on page 19

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Zoning Board Of Adjustment

January 17

Condensed from approved minutes.

Present: Katherine Stearns, Chair; Charlie McCrave, Vice-Chair; Susan Schnare; Don Gross; Jeff Newcomb; Paul Fopiano, alternate.

Public Hearing: A request from William and Alison Thomas for a variance to permit less than the required road frontage to build a single family dwelling on an existing lot.

Stearns recused and McCrave was appointed as acting Chair and appointed Fopiano as an alternate. David Hilts indicated to the Board that he was representing William and Alison Thomas, William being the son of one of the owners of the property. Hilts stated that the application indicated both a variance from the road frontage requirement and a special exception to construct a single family dwelling.

A letter addressing the application was presented from Hilts, indicating that an application for a variance to the road frontage and a special exception to construct a single-family home on this property had previously been denied by the Board, and that "material change of circumstances affecting the merits" of the current application since the previous denial entitling Mr. and Mrs. Thomas to present an application for both a variance and special exception.

A lot map indicating the location was presented and it was questioned whether the Town could extend the road by 20' as a solution. Gross questioned where the home would be located on the property and the location was indicated along with the proposed location of the well and that a septic system has been approved by the state. Gross states that he would like to view the location.

Kurt Meier states that Park Street ends at the westerly end of his property and that there is a right-of-way through his property which has been upgraded due to washout at his own expense. McCrave states that the end of Park Street needs to be clarified, if it is at the westerly end of the Meier property, there is no road frontage for the Thomas property, and if it is at the westerly end of the Thomas property then this should be satisfactory. Meier states that he and his spouse have

a purchase and sales agreement and deposit on this property and their intent is to keep it as a natural area.

Hilts read clarification of "town road" in RSA 229.1. If used by the public for 20 years prior to January 1, 1968, it is considered a public highway. McCrave states he would like copies of the maps and deeds to both the Thomas property and the Meier property, he would like to consult the Town Administrator regarding maintenance and would like to schedule a site visit. McCrave continued the meeting to February 4 for a site visit and then will continue the hearing on February 21.

Public Hearing: A request from David A. Poulin of Proline Automotive for an additional special exception to permit the retail sales of used motor vehicles at a single family residence with an existing auto repair shop. The property is located at 119 Plains Road.

Poulin presented a diagram of the property with a photo of the existing garage along with a letter from the owners of the property authorizing him to proceed with this application. There is an existing auto repair shop on the property, which Poulin operates, and would like to add the retail sales of used motor vehicles. There will be no additional signage, lighting, nor any changes to the characteristics of the property.

McCrave questioned whether the auto repair shop pre-dates zoning. The response is that the Town recognized it as an auto repair shop in 1980. Schnare questioned whether anyone had come before the Board at that time. The response is unsure; however, Poulin presented paperwork approving the shop.

McCrave questioned whether there would be a state approved inspection station. Poulin states that the Town was contacted by the state inquiring if this auto repair shop was an approved usage, and an "Application for Inspection Station" which had been completed by the state and signed by Town Administrator Mark Stetson on December 11, 2005 was presented to the Board.

Schnare questioned the number of vehicles that would be for sale. The response is the applicant is willing to restrict himself to six vehicles for retail sales. A letter indicating an abutter's ap-

Master Plan Update Committee

By Paul Currier

Master Plan Update Committee

2006 will be a busy year for the Andover Master Plan Update Committee, as it gets down to the business of asking for public input and drafting an updated Master Plan. This volunteer committee was assembled in late 2004 at the request of the Planning Board. Funds to support the effort were voted at the March 2005 Town Meeting.

Why do we need an updated Master Plan? Andover is growing, and our present Master Plan is more than a decade old. The main purposes of the Master Plan are to envision the best and most appropriate future development for Andover, to aid the planning board in designing good ordinances – zoning, subdivision, site plan review – and to establish a good legal basis for implementation of the ordinances.

The Master Plan Update Committee met several times in 2005. It prepared a draft town-wide survey, heard a presentation from the Office of Energy and Planning on the legal aspects of master planning, and listened to proposals from the Lakes Region Planning

Commission for the build-out analysis and from the Society for Protection of New Hampshire Forests for a natural resources co-occurrence analysis.

With the delays inherent in contracting, progress has been slow and limited so far. But now, as 2006 begins, the build-out and natural resources analyses are underway and when those are finished there will be a lot to talk about. The committee will be receiving these results in late spring and, with them in hand, working with the University of New Hampshire to get input from townspeople in a town-wide survey and one or two public visioning meetings. The committee's goal is to have a new plan drafted by the end of 2006.

Volunteers are still needed, particularly those with analytical and writing skills. The committee will be meeting on a monthly basis in 2006 to begin drafting the plan, reviewing the work of the contractors, and planning for community outreach. The public is always invited. Anyone interested in being part of the Master Plan update process can get in touch with Paul Currier at 735-5280 or Doug Boisvert at 735-5218.

proval of the application was read.

Schnare questioned if there would be any new signs and what form of advertising would be used. The response is the sign on the door would be retained, there would be no new ones, and advertising would be by price tag on the vehicle window and/or word of mouth.

McCrave advised the applicant that if the Zoning Board approved his application, he would be subject to the Planning Board for a site plan review. The Board unanimously approved the application.

Conservation Commission

February 8

Condensed from draft minutes

Present: Jerry Hersey, Tina Cotton, Nan Kaplan, Sandra Graves, Peter Southworth, Mary Anne Broshek, Peter Zak.

Old Business

Andover Master Plan. We talked about how to coordinate the available

map information that helps us complete a Natural Resources Inventory and work toward a map that identifies conservation priorities and meets our needs to finalize a conservation plan.

Webster Lake Watershed Study. No action until we get information from the Webster Lake Association.

New Business

Hersey Farm Conservation Easement. Mary Anne contacted Ausbon Sargent about fundraising, but did not hear back from them.

We need to identify the amount of money we will commit from our funds to the Hersey Farm as well as adjacent landowners. A motion was made to authorize some of the Conservation Commission funds to assist with the Hersey easement. Seconded and passed by vote with the understanding that no money would be allocated until concrete steps and payments are underway.

See Cons Comm on page 20



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Area Memorial Day Events

By Wayne and Sally Nicoll
For the Beacon

Five events are planned in our area to help us all observe Memorial Day.

Memorial Day Observance at the Franklin Pierce Homestead in Hillsborough. Ceremonies begin at 10:30 AM on Saturday, May 26, and will include a band concert and scout displays.

YOU DID IT!

Thank you to everyone who helped us beat our goal of 275 Andover households supporting the Beacon with a voluntary donation. If you haven't sent your 2007 donation, there's still time – please do so today! You'll find a handy form on page 2.

THANK YOU!

281

250
225
200
175
150
125
100
75
50
25

The Visitor Center will feature tours of the 1804 Franklin Pierce Homestead plus seldom-seen pictures of patriotic occasions and members of the military.

Road Race and Fun Run at Pat's Peak in Henniker. The Russell M. Durgin Memorial Road Race 5K Run/Walk & Kids' Fun Run kicks off with the Fun Run at 7:40 AM on Monday, May 28. The 5K follows at 8 AM. The events are in memory of Russell Durgin, who was killed in action in Afghanistan on June 13, 2006. Proceeds will benefit veterans of the Iraq and Afghanistan wars and their families. Visit Durgin5K.com.

Memorial Day Parade in Concord. The parade starts at 9 AM on Monday, May 28, at the corner of Storrs Street and South Main Street. It stops for a ceremony at the Franklin Pierce gravesite on North State Street. The parade ends at the State House for the official wreath laying ceremony.

Memorial Day Observances at the New Hampshire Veterans Cemetery in Boscaawen start at 9 AM on Wednesday, May 30, with services conducted by the Marine Corps League. At 10 AM there will be ceremonies conducted by the

See Events on page 3

Town-Wide Meeting To Create A Vision For Andover's Future

By Paul Currier
Master Plan Update Committee

The Andover Master Plan Update Committee invites all Andover residents to an open forum on "A Vision for Andover's Future" at the Andover Elementary/Middle School gym, from 7 to 9 PM on Wednesday, May 23.

Please come! The committee needs your participation in order for the revised Master Plan to truly represent the ideas and opinions of Andover residents.

The meeting is planned to begin promptly at 7 PM and will end by 9 PM. There will be two parts – first, the group will be asked to respond briefly to the questions:

- "What is Andover like today?"
- "What would you like Andover to be in the future?"

Responses will be recorded and used in writing the Master Plan.

Then, to dig into the details, there will be breakout groups to discuss topics like Business & Industry, Housing, Conservation and Natural Resources, Cultural and Historic Resources, Village Districts, and similar topics. These groups will develop more in-depth ideas on Andover's present and future for the committee to use in writing the Master Plan. All groups will have a facilitator and a recorder.

This is a great opportunity to participate in planning for Andover's future – please come!

The results of the Andover Vision survey will be used as a starting point for discussions. If you haven't yet filled out the survey, please do! You can find it on the Web at TinyURL.com/25wyf, or pick up a copy at the Town Office.

Don't miss these important opportunities to have a voice in shaping Andover's future!

the

Andover Beacon

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May 2007

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Three drivers dared flooding on Route 4 at Fenvale and lost. Photo: Scott Kidder

Tax Day Flood Tears Up Roads

By Charlie Darling
Beacon staff

The Big Rain of April '05...the Columbus Day Flood of '05...the Mother's Day Flood of '06...and now the Tax Day Flood of '07. Once again a strong low pressure system swept into New England, and once again Andover's Emergency Operations Center was called into action for a tense couple of days.

Several inches of wet, heavy snow followed by heavy rain and warming temperatures set the stage. On Monday morning, April 16, on the advice of Road Agent John Thompson, Emergency Management Director Ed Becker and deputy directors Jane Hubbard and Phil Hackmann opened the Emergency Operations Center in the basement of the Town Hall to keep an eye on the situation as the rain continued to pelt down.

Late in the morning, the students at AE/MS were sent home, but not before a leak in the roof sent water into an alarm sensor, causing the alarms to go off.

Around noon the road agent, the two fire departments, the police, and the Rescue Squad met in the EOC to update each other and make plans. John Thompson reported damage to many town roads, including washouts three or four feet deep in some places. Many roads were closed, and the road agent's crews were hard at work making the worst of them at least passable for emergency vehicles.

The pond at Proctor Academy was rising fast. Andover Fire Department had a four-inch hose in the lake and was pumping, but students and faculty were preparing Shirley Hall and the base-

See Flood on page 4

Hear Ye, Hear Ye!

You are formally invited to stop by the Andover Elementary/Middle School "Castle" during Teacher and Staff Appreciation Week, May 7 to 11, and let the ROYAL staff know how very much they are worth to us

In case you are wondering, the AE/MS staff will be the ones wearing CROWNS!

The Swap Shop will be open on May 19 and welcomes reusable items in working condition like toys, clothing, books, bicycles, and kitchenware. Please, no upholstered furniture, tires, windows, doors, electronics, or porcelain fixtures. Details on page 3.

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Dale McLeod's helicopter rides were a huge hit at the fundraiser for the New Hampshire Food Pantry. Story on page 3. Photo: Bob Bussey



AndoverBeacon.com November 2006 \$2.00

Build-Out Analysis: Andover, Pop. 14,000

By Paul Currier
Master Plan Update Committee

What would Andover's landscape look like if all the developable land were built on? If you own property, about how many houses could fit on your lot under current zoning? The answers may surprise you.

On September 25, the Master Plan Update Committee heard the results of a build-out analysis for Andover, presented by Dave Jeffers of Lakes Region Planning Commission. Dave reported that, at full build-out, Andover could have as many as 6,600 houses and apartments, with more than 14,000 people living in our town! And guess what - most of this potential growth would occur on the mostly undeveloped lands outside of the villages and the Plains, on the mostly-forested hillsides and valleys that make up our beautiful rural landscape.

The build-out analysis report – soon to be published and made available to the public – was requested by the Master Plan Update Committee to help evaluate whether or not current zoning regulations will give us the kind of landscape people want for Andover's future. The analysis will give the committee a basis for considering zoning changes as part of the ongoing Master Plan update.

Zone By Zone

The analysis further shows that Andover's village areas and the Rural Residential (RR) zone on the Plains are pretty much built out now – 75% for the village, and 87% for the RR zone. The zones with the most potential for new subdivisions and houses are the Forest and Agriculture (FA) and Agricultural and Residential (AR) districts. In fact, See Build-Out on page 2

Selectmen Given Two Options For Highland Lake Dam Fix

By Charlie Darling
Beacon staff

After months of frustrating delays, Andover officials and a group of concerned residents got some answers from the engineering firm that is studying the problems with the Highland Lake dam. On October 19, engineers presented their findings and two options to solve the problems.

The problem areas are the earthen dam itself, which leaks, and the structure that carries the water under Maple Street and into Sucker Brook. The pipe under Maple Street – a six foot steel culvert that was lined with about three inches of concrete in 1978 – is in poor condition and has too little depth of road bed on top of it by today's standards. And between some permanent stop-logs in the outfall and the concrete lining, the whole structure is not able to handle as much outflow from Highland Lake as it sometimes needs to.

The engineers presented two op-

tions for replacing the outflow structure. Option 1 would be a new six-foot reinforced concrete culvert pipe under Maple Street; a new headwall on the downstream side; and repairs to other parts of the outflow structures. The engineers estimated the cost for Option 1 at about \$192,000.

Option 2 uses a 3' x 10' box culvert under Maple Street (which technically makes it a bridge from the Department of Transportation's view). It also calls for more extensive work on the outflow structures because they'd have to be re-configured. Estimated cost: \$231,000.

Both options include the same fix to the earthen dam: driving or vibrating sheet piling 15 to 20 feet into the dam all along its length, making the aging structure watertight again.

Choosing between the options may be tricky. The pipe option costs less, but doesn't address the issue of too shallow a road bed over the pipe. The bridge op-

See Dam on page 3

New Fix Will Bring AE/MS Roof Up To Code, Save Money

By Vicky Mishcon
Andover School Board

On October 3, engineer Peter Steffensen met with the Andover School Board to review recommendations to temporarily repair the 1938 hip roof on the elementary/middle school and to revisit the Board's concerns with safety, costs, and logistics. The result was a new recommendation that will solve the roof's safety problems and can be implemented right away.

A brief review for readers unfamiliar with the situation should be helpful:

In August, Steffensen Engineering Associates conducted a structural analysis of the hip roof framing as part of an inspection of the school facility. The firm found numerous overstresses and damage to framing members, enough to render the roof framing system inadequate to support heavy snow loads.

Steffensen's report generated many questions from community members as well as from the School Board. Several

members of the public expressed grave concern over the safety of the students and staff members and suggested immediate replacement of the roof.

The Next Step

The School Board felt it prudent to have Mr. Steffensen meet with the Board to discuss these concerns See Roof on page 2



Kids from the East Andover Village Preschool were drawn to a beautiful fall scene on the Highland Lake dam. Photo: Doreen Perreault

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Board Of Selectmen

September 17

Condensed from approved minutes

Present: Chairman Dennis Fenton, Selectmen Roger Godwin and Andrew Gup-till, and Town Administrator Mark Stetson

Under old business, the Board acknowledged receipt of the wetlands permit for the work at the dam. After review and a brief discussion, the Board authorized Fenton to sign a contract with Dubois & King to provide the additional information required for the wetlands and dam reconstruction permit applications by the New Hampshire Department of Environmental Services (DES).

Stetson informed the Board that an issue with the placement of the relocated utility pole at the dam had been resolved earlier in the day. The contractor had told Stetson that the planned location would interfere with the equipment needed to place one section of culvert box, so the contractor and a representative from the power company devised an alternate plan to locate a temporary pole. Stetson also told the Board that it's

likely that the power company will invoice the Town for the time involved to set the temporary pole.

The Board then met with Police Chief Glenn Laramie who told the Board that his department responded to 262 calls for service during the prior 30-day period. There was a general discussion about the dramatic increase from the previous month. Laramie noted that six of those calls were to provide assistance to other town departments or the state police. After a lengthy discussion, the Board approved Laramie's request that Currier Road be posted with a 25 mile per hour speed limit.

Back under old business, Stetson reported that the camper has been removed from the property located at 777 Raccoon Hill Road.

The Board authorized Fenton to sign an agreement with the New Hampshire Department of Transportation whereby the Town accepts management responsibility for the Transportation Enhancement grant that the Friends of the Northern Rail Trail solicited to upgrade approximately 8.4 miles of the rail trail.

This agreement contains the language that the selectmen had sought that relieves the Town of maintenance responsibilities once the construction is complete.

Under new business, the Board decided no comment is needed regarding a notice from the New Hampshire Liquor Commission about a beer and wine liquor license application submitted by Irving Oil Corporation for that company's planned purchase of the Foodstop convenience store.

The Board signed a letter of thanks to be sent to Carroll Gautreau acknowledging his donation of a porta-potty for the Transfer Station.

The Board entered non-public session to discuss welfare cases 07-11 and 07-12. The Board voted not to publish the minutes of this non-public session.

Back under old business, Godwin relayed renewed complaints about the expanded scope of operations at the Main Street Garage without benefit of planning or zoning approval and suggested that he and Planning Board chairman Don Gould would soon meet to review previous approvals to best determine what enforcement action to recommend to the Board. Fenton commented that vehicles appear to be parked within the Town and state road rights of way. Gup-till suggested the Town seek assistance from the state enforcing the setback from Main Street.

Godwin also relayed a request from the Planning Board that applicants requesting special exceptions from the Zoning Board complete the part of the process that requires them to go to the Planning Board first in order for that Board to determine if the site is appropriate for the proposed use. Members of the Planning Board opine that this change would improve efficiency of the process.

September 18

Special Meeting convened as the Pre-Construction Meeting for the High-

land Lake Dam project.

Condensed from approved minutes

Present: Chairman Dennis Fenton, Selectmen Roger Godwin and Andrew Gup-till, Town Administrator Mark Stetson, Road Agent John Thompson, Robert Durfee from Dubois & King, and Bruce Coleman, Dave Stroud, and Adam Oleson, all from Alvin J. Coleman & Son present.

Stetson provided Stroud with a copy of the wetlands permit. The permit was signed by the Town and by Coleman. A copy will be posted at the site.

Durfee informed Coleman that some of the references checked had come back very favorable and some less than favorable. Because all of the references for the jobs that he was responsible for were very positive, on behalf of the Town, Durfee asked that Stroud see this project through to completion.

Coleman confirmed that Stroud would be in charge of the contractor's responsibilities and noted that Stroud had estimated the job on behalf of his company. Coleman went on to express concern that his firm would be held responsible for delays caused by adverse weather conditions, late delivery of the concrete box culvert, or other factors beyond his control.

Durfee outlined provisions in the contract that address those types of scenarios. On the question of communications among the owner, engineer, and contractor, he said that engineers from his staff were required by New Hampshire Department of Environmental Services (DES) to observe certain construction procedures (e.g., concrete pouring and compaction of gravel fill), anticipated frequent visits but not constant attendance at the project site otherwise, and expected to send out weekly summaries to the owner and contractor for comment and correction as needed.

See Selectmen on page 12

Master Plan Update Committee

By Paul Currier

Co-Chair, Master Plan Update Comm.

Almost two thirds of the households that responded to last spring's survey said "rural character" is what they like most about Andover. But what makes up rural character?

At its September meeting, the Master Plan Update Committee explored the idea that small village areas are a main ingredient of rural character, and another main ingredient is relatively open space in between villages. A good village area should have a variety of buildings and uses – single family homes, apartments, offices, shops, restaurants, services, and public buildings – all within easy walking distance.

Andover has four village districts on our current zoning map – how well do they function now, and what would we recommend in the Master Plan for changes to preserve rural character? Here's a summary of what the September meeting came up with.

- Andover Village – A fairly complete village area: a store, restaurant, garage, town office, post office, school, and offices all within an easy walk. The designated village area is too small, though, and should be expanded somewhat in all directions
- East Andover Village – Not as complete a village as Andover Village, but not bad. The designated area is about the right size and can accommodate future growth.
- West Andover Village (on Rt. 4 toward Danbury) – What village? There's nothing there, and it's postage-stamp small. This village district should go away.
- Cilleyville (along Cilleyville Road from the rail trail to Mountain Road) – No real village character-

tics now, but the area has possibilities. More work is needed to recommend boundaries.

What do you think defines rural character? Are walkable village areas with a mix of buildings and uses a big part of it? Where and how big should they be?

Now's the time to give the committee your opinions. All Andover residents are invited to participate in the Master Plan Update Committee's work. We usually meet the fourth Monday of the month at the Town Hall. Our next meeting is November 26. Please come. You can contact committee co-chairs Doug Boisvert at 735-5218 or Paul Currier at 735-5280 for more information.

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Master Plan Update Committee

NEWS FROM THE TOWN OFFICE

By Paul Currier
Master Plan Update Committee

The core of the updated Master Plan is ten guiding principles from the town-wide survey and visioning session. The draft language for Guiding Principle 1 is in the paragraphs that follow. Read it and see what you think. Look for more guiding principles in future *Beacon* articles.

We need comments! You can e-mail your comments to committee chair Paul Currier at PCurrier@tds.net.

Guiding Principle 1: Maintain Andover's small town, rural character – village centers with generally open spaces elsewhere.

Small town, rural character is the attribute most valued by people who live in Andover today. The importance of maintaining rural character has been consistent through three master plans and for more than thirty years of Andover's recent history.

It is somewhat difficult to define just what rural character is; but in general, it includes compact, walkable village areas with shops and services and lots of open space in between as well as farms or forests with scattered houses and out-buildings that are not too visible.

On the social side, it includes a "sense of community" where there is opportunity for involvement in school activities, civic and cultural events, and town or village-oriented social occasions. New buildings should be on the same scale as existing buildings and in a compatible style.

What is a village area? It is a compact area of small retail shops and service vendors, residences, multi-family units, schools, places of public assembly, such as town halls or churches, and similar activities. It is generally an area where a person might be able to find goods and services and living arrangements all within walking distance of each other.

Andover has three significant village areas: Andover village, East Andover village, and Cilleyville.

Andover village is a well-developed village area. In 2008, a person can get gas at the convenience store, then park, go to a bank, go to a doctor, get a cup of coffee, have a pizza for lunch, mail letters, register a car at the town office, and drop a kid off at school or karate lessons, all by walking around.

East Andover village is not as well developed. A person can get coffee, buy basic groceries, mail a letter, and go to church by walking around, but it's not as compact or complete as Andover village.

Cilleyville, on the other hand, does not show much character of a village area today; it is primarily a residential area.

West Andover, a fourth village area identified in the zoning ordinance, has no village characteristics in 2008.

In general, the village character of the three significant village areas should be enhanced, and the open, rural character of other areas should be maintained, especially avoiding strip

development along main roads. Businesses and services should be small and accessible. New development in village areas should not overwhelm the rural and historical character of the town.

Action Items

- The Andover village district should be enlarged to provide adequate opportunity for growth with continued maintenance of the character of the village area.

- The Cilleyville village area should be enlarged. The town, with full participation of neighborhood residents, should create a plan for growing the village character of this existing village district.

- The West Andover village district should cease to exist, because there is not even the vestige of a village there now.

- East Andover village is about the right size on the existing zoning map. The town, with full participation of neighborhood residents, should create a plan for East Andover village district to encourage growth that preserves and enhances the village character.

- Permitted uses in the village districts should be reviewed and modified to maintain and enhance the village character. The language of the current zoning ordinance that includes uses permitted in other districts in the village area should be changed so that only appropriate village uses are allowed.

- Permitted housing types in the village should be reviewed to assure a balanced mix of affordable housing for young and old, rich and poor, seniors and young families with children.

VOTE

AE/MS Nov 4 8-7

By Dana Hadley
Andover Town Administrator

The days draw shorter, the nights colder, and the leaves are falling. We all know what is ahead.

Here at the Town Office the talk is of winter plow routes, plow drivers, and snow, sand, and salt. Mailboxes are always a concern. Please know that plow drivers try very hard not to damage mailboxes, but from time to time accidents happen. Please be sure that your mailbox is placed so that it is not vulnerable to accidents.

The Town's policy is not to replace mailboxes damaged by plowing. I know how frustrating this can be, so we appreciate your help by placing your mailbox out of harm's way.

There was also a move a few years ago, sponsored by New Hampshire Department of Transportation, which I am going to mention: do not crowd the plows. Please give plows a lot of room so that

they can do their job and keep us all safe. We are moving into the 2009 budget preparation season. The Budget Committee has set their agenda for the season. I would encourage anyone interested to attend these meetings. They will give you all the background that makes up the compilation of the budget.

The Budget Committee's schedule is posted at the Town Office, at the Andover Post Office, and the East Andover Post Office.

As you may be aware, after careful consideration, the Maple Street paving project was postponed until 2009. We did replace the culvert in front of the East Andover Fire House. Next year the plan is to complete that paving project.

The Highland Dam replacement is drawing to a close. We are still waiting for final sign-off from the engineers so that we can pursue the FEMA funds, and the work continues to resolve the hazard classification.

Andover Recreation Comm.

By Alan Hanscom
Andover Recreation Committee

Exciting times are ahead for Blackwater Park. Or at least that is the hope of many people involved with Andover's youth sports. Planners are getting into the finer details of plans to build a multipurpose building. We are not picking out wallpaper patterns or sofa materials yet, but we are checking out basic building materials to determine an accurate building cost estimate to present to Town Meeting in the spring. The building will contain a bathroom, snack counter and equipment storage.

If the committee is successful, construction could proceed through next summer. We are in contact with the NHDOT Bureau of Rail & Transit to complete the purchase of land next to the park that was approved at this year's meeting.

We are weighing options for the upcoming basketball season, including joining the Franklin league. Watch for basketball and ski season sign-up information in your child's AE/MS newsletter.

The soccer season was exciting for all involved. Look for articles about a specific team elsewhere in the Beacon. The regular season ended in early October, but Andover's fifth and sixth grade teams have been invited to a tournament in Penacook with Boscaawen, Salisbury, Webster and Loudon on October 25.

Please come to our meetings to share your ideas on improving youth sports in Andover.

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Planning from page 11

each waiver. The Board unanimously deemed the application complete pending receipt of deed language and a fire protection plan. A public hearing was scheduled for September 27.

Preliminary Non-Binding Consultation: Site Plan Review for ZIA Group, Inc. Camp Marlyn Road. Susan Hankin-Birke representing ZIA Group. Godwin recused himself. Hankin-Birke gave a brief history of Camp Marlyn, specifically the renovation of Beech Lodge. In January 2005, ZIA Group was granted a special exception by the ZBA to permit a change in use, allowing seasonal use of this building, with the condition that the Planning Board conduct a site plan review. A septic system designed by Deb Hinds was presented to the Board. Minutes of 1989 and January 2005 were reviewed along with the special exception granted by the ZBA. Concerns of the Board include:

What is the water supply for this building? The same supply servicing Owl's Nest Lodge. This system was redone in 1989 to include Beech Lodge.

Where will people park? Parking was pointed out and the Board requested it be delineated on the plan.

What is used for solid waste disposal? Owl's Nest Lodge dumpsters.

The application was reviewed by the Board and unanimously deemed complete pending description of the water supply. A public hearing was scheduled for September 27.

Preliminary Non-Binding Consultation: Site Plan Review, Bob Ward. Home Occupation on Main Street. Ward gave a brief description of his proposed home-based occupation to be located in his garage at 118 Main Street. This is for sale of wood and pellet stoves and fuel. This would include office and retail space along with some storage of stoves.

Reminisce!

The Beacon wants to publish your memories of Andover in days gone by. Long or short, about big events or everyday moments, our readers would love to share in your memories.

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There would be 2½ parking spaces for customers at the garage along with a single for himself at his residence. The bathroom facilities would be in his residence. There would be some deliveries of stoves to this location for retail sales along with fuel. There would be no outdoor storage of materials.

There would be a sign along the front of the property at the road. Ward does not expect a large volume of traffic.

The Board reviewed written requests for waivers and requested a floor plan of the garage indicated on the map. The Board unanimously approved granting the waivers. The Board voted unanimously to deem the application complete pending parking being delineated on the map and the interior layout of the garage being indicated on the map. A public hearing was scheduled for September 27.

Conservation Commission
September 14, 2005

Condensed from draft minutes

Present: Jerry Hersey, Bob Ward, Tina Cotton, Peter Zak, Mary Anne Broshek, Peter Southworth

The Friends of the Northern Rail Trail sent a letter of thanks for the support of the Conservation Commission. The FNRT proposal earned the number

one rating by the Lakes Region Planning Commission Transportation Advisory Committee. Next, the proposal will go to the state for review.

The Highland Lake draw down started on September 12. Peter Zak reported that he got an update from Bryant Adams, who is monitoring the lowered lake level.

Peter Zak and Sandra Graves will serve on the Webster Lake Watershed Study Committee.

The progress on the Master Plan Update will pick up with mapping contracts to University of New Hampshire Cooperative Extension and the Society for Protection of New Hampshire Forests. The Committee will have a presentation on a "land sensitive" development.

Dredge of agricultural pond at Hall Farm. No correspondence was received.

A meeting in Concord clarified the New Hampshire Department of Transportation's proposed projects over the next 10 years. For our region, two projects were outlined: reconstruction of 2.5 miles of Route 4, and reconstruction of Route 11 from Dyer's Crossing to Channel Road. The Conservation Commission has concerns about the need for this reconstruction, given the DOT's criteria. It will be looked at more closely at our next meeting.

Master Plan Update Committee

By Paul Currier
Master Plan Update Committee

At its September 26 meeting the Andover Master Plan Update Committee saw a video presentation by Randall Arendt, an experienced community planner, on maintaining rural character through open space zoning.

This concept may be useful as we write the Master Plan update. It fits well with some of the important issues mentioned in our master plan preparations over time – "discourage strip development," "maintain visual character," and "preserve rural character."

Much has changed since Andover's Master Plan was last updated in 1992. But new land use planning ideas are making it easier for small towns like ours to identify and keep what we hold

valuable about our town while allowing managed growth.

As authorized by this year's Town Meeting, the committee's work includes a "build-out analysis" to be done by Lakes Region Planning Commission. This will estimate the extent and location of full development under existing zoning.

At the same time, the Society for the Protection of New Hampshire Forests will be conducting a "natural resources co-occurrence analysis" that will map the most valuable natural resource areas in town.

After the committee and townspeople have had a chance to see the results, public meetings and a town-wide questionnaire will help the community write the core pieces of the Master Plan Update. Essential elements of the update include a Vision section that describes Andover citizens' goals and objectives for the future development and character of the town, and a Land Use section that describes what uses would best go where on Andover's landscape.

The completed plan will also include an Implementation section. That will be the basis for a detailed review of the Zoning Ordinance by the Planning Board, as well as a guide for Zoning Board of Adjustment decisions and activities of other Town boards and committees related to changes in the landscape.

The Master Plan Update Committee is co-chaired by Paul Currier (735-5280) and Doug Boisvert (735-5218). We meet on the fourth Monday of the month. The public is always invited, and more committee members are needed.

Discussion of our map needs. A complaint was received on a property along Highland Lake about fill being used on the waterfront property. It was investigated, reported to the state Department of Environmental Services, and the owner was notified of the concern and how to rectify the situation. The Conservation Commission planning meeting for September 28 has been rescheduled for October 5.

School Board News

By Douglas Boisvert
Andover School Board

September has arrived, and this means the start of another wonderful school year. The school is bursting at the seams with positive energy. If you walk in the school and don't feel it, just stand there for a minute and observe the climate.

The changes taking place within the facility are amazing. The change is Positive Behavior Intervention and Support (PBIS). What does this mean to the community? It means the whole school atmosphere is in tune with the positive culture the staff is creating. This will make for happier students, a better learning environment, and a level of respect between everyone within the facility that will escalate beyond what we have now.

Please find time to visit the Andover Elementary/Middle School Web site at www.andover.k12.nh.us.

Board Business

It is with regret that the Board has accepted Ed Dansereau's resignation. Ed has been an asset and particularly helpful in negotiating the tuition contract between Merrimack Valley High School and the Andover School District. We wish him the best of luck in his endeavors.

That leaves only four members on the Board: Doug Boisvert, (Chair) until 2007; Dave Hewitt (Vice Chair) until 2007; Robin Boynton until 2006; Vicky Mishcon until 2008. We are looking for someone interested in fulfilling the remainder of Ed's term, which runs until March 2006. Please contact any member of the School Board if you have an interest.

Fuel oil prices look like they are going to be high again this year. The Board has locked in to a price of \$1.745 per gallon for the school year 2005-2006.

Our Facility Study is underway. Mark Joyce and Dennis Pope observed the normal course of action at AE/MS on September 12. They gathered information that will be a very important part of their study.

The AE/MS Long Range Goals and Strategies Committee met again in August. The progress is going quite well. Kudos to those involved.

The Andover School Board meets on the first Tuesday of every month except July at 6:30 PM. We encourage people to attend with any questions or concerns they might have.



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Master Plan Update Committee

By Paul Currier
Master Plan Update Committee

Now the real Master Plan work begins! We've heard from you, the townspeople. We've drafted a vision from what we heard, and it's time to translate the vision to an on-the-ground land use plan.

At its August 27 meeting, the Master Plan Committee met with the Conservation Commission to hear about the Commission's new Conservation Plan and Natural Resources Inventory. The inventory will be an essential piece in translating the results of the town-wide survey and visioning session completed in May into a detailed guide to Andover's future landscape change. According to the visioning results, Andover's future development should:

- Maintain Andover's small town, rural character
- Encourage commercial activity that builds on the regional recreation and tourism economy
- Promote and preserve a working landscape of farms and forests

- Create specific zones for light industry and commercial activities
- Preserve the views along Andover's major highways
- Conserve natural resources
- Provide choices in housing types

With the Conservation plan in hand, including maps of valuable resources, the committee is set to begin looking critically at Andover to recommend the places and areas most appropriate for the kinds of development in the vision. These include villages, areas of working forests and farms, commercial areas, as well as light industrial areas.

Where do you think are the best areas in Andover for these kinds of activities? All Andover residents are invited to participate in the Master Plan Committee's work. We usually meet the fourth Monday of the month at the Town Hall. Our next meeting is October 22. Please come. You can contact committee co-chairs Doug Boisvert at 735-5218 or Paul Currier at 735-5280 for more information.

Andover Budget Committee

The Andover Budget Committee will conduct an organizational meeting in preparation for the 2008 budget season on Wednesday, October 17 at 7 PM at the Andover Town Hall.

The agenda for the meeting will be:

- Election of officers
- Establish a meeting schedule for the 2008 budget season
- AE/MS will report on its fiscal year ended June 30, 2007 and review the status of the current fiscal year.

What Andover Needs In Candidates For Selectman

By the Andover Board of Selectmen

As you can see from Andy Guptill's letter on page 2 of this issue of the *Beacon*, he's not planning to run for re-election to the Board of Selectmen. The community needs some good candidates to choose from come March, so it's time for you (and every other Andover resident) to think long and hard about whether you'd make a good member of the Board.

To that end, we've put together this list of some of the skills and traits we think make a good selectman. It's up to the voters to decide what they think of each candidate, of course, but hopefully this list is something like what they've got in mind.

A Good Candidate Has These Skills

No specific skills required – Sure, it's nice if you know a lot about roads, construction, and civil engineering, or about agriculture, forestry, and the environment, or about government, finances, taxes, and the law, or about education and community social services – or all of the above – but none of that's required. Being a selectman is very much about learning "on the job."

A Good Candidate Has These Traits

A good listener – Not every issue before the Board is presented clearly, so you have to be able to hear the important bits among all the rest. And it's very important that people presenting to the Board feel they were listened to well and thoroughly.

Able to suspend judgement – Quick decisions aren't as important as good decisions, and sometimes a selectman has to keep an open mind for quite a while as all the different dimensions of an issue get worked through.

Not afraid of a diversity of opinion – Even a small town like Andover has a wide range of views among its citizens. A selectman has to listen seriously and give due consideration to them all.

Able to separate logic from passion – Some diversity of opinion can be passionate, but a selectman has to see the rational, logical arguments that matter, whether they are delivered with passion or not. At the same time, a selectman has to be able to set aside his or her own strong-

ly-held convictions and passions in order to serve the whole community well.

Not afraid of information – A selectman must be able to dig deeper than intuition and emotion to get the facts and make sound decisions. Sometimes this means reading and understanding a lot of legal or engineering documents.

A century ago, the Board might have been able to fly by the seat of its pants based on common sense, but today that approach will land the Town in court or in an expensive engineering pickle.

Respect for the law – The Board has no choice but to understand and abide by every town, state, and federal law on the books, no matter how wrong-headed or unpopular a given law may be.

Able to decide even when the data is incomplete – The Board rarely has the luxury of having all the facts neatly arrayed before it, especially when it comes to assessing how a given decision may play out in the future. But sometimes a decision has to be made despite significant imponderables.

Not afraid of being unpopular – The Board can't make everyone happy all the time. After all the good listening, thorough research, and careful consideration, it's time to act on what's best for the community as a whole.

Not afraid to be the bad guy – When citizens, businesses, employees, or committees aren't living up to their responsibilities, the Board can't flinch from taking them to task.

Proud of Andover's past and present, but not afraid of change – We're moving forward through the 21st century, like it or not. But we need to bring with us as many of the good things that have shaped Andover as possible. That's a tricky balancing act, and a selectman needs to be comfortable facing the inevitable conflicts and compromises it demands.

Ask A Selectman

To learn more about the challenges and rewards of being a selectman, just ask one! The Board meets on the first and third Mondays of the month in the Town Hall at 7 PM, or call the Town Office any weekday at 735-5332.



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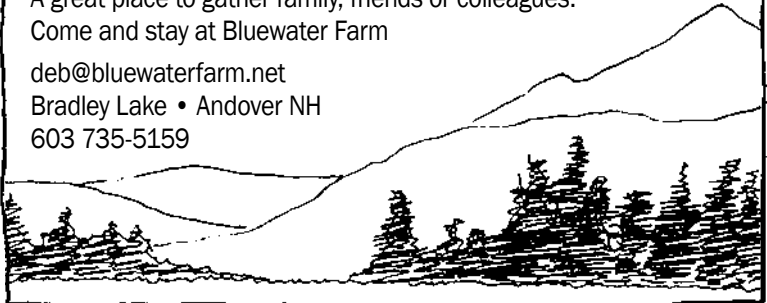


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Andover Rescue Squad Presents Plan To Address New Challenges

By John Kinney
Secretary, Andover Rescue Squad

Andover Rescue Squad, Inc. (ARS) has provided emergency medical transport services to Andover since the squad's inception in 1966. The model of volunteerism and donations has worked well for decades. Yet the guidelines and requirements for agencies providing emergency medical service (EMS) have changed significantly over the years.

ARS now finds itself at a turning point in its history. The options for change that lie before ARS and the residents of Andover are not simple, nor are they easy choices to make.

On the evening of August 17, the officers and members of Andover Rescue

Squad presented a comprehensive overview of the current predicaments now confronting ARS to the Board of Selectmen. Some of the problems have been around for some time, while others are due to recent changes in the way EMS agencies must now comply with federal, state, and regional requirements.

The challenges fall into two categories:

- Financing, and
- Adequate and timely response on weekdays.

Finances

The operating expenses of ARS have steadily increased over past years, while the funds collected through donations have remained relatively consistent. As

See Rescue Squad on page 5

Public Meeting On New Master Plan: September 28

By Paul Currier
Master Plan Update Committee

Where should the commercial and light industrial zones recommended in the Master Plan vision chapter be located? What parts of Andover should remain mostly large forest blocks?

Please come to a public meeting on the draft Land Use Chapter of Andover's updated Master Plan on Monday evening, September 28, at 7 PM at the Town Hall!

For several months now, the Master Plan Update Committee, with the help of Lakes Region Planning Commission, has been examining existing land use and working on scenarios for future land use that implement the ideas set down in the Vision chapter. Existing land use maps have been prepared and will be on display at the meeting.

For future land use, the committee

has identified three village areas, one potential commercial area, and three potential light industrial areas. The village areas would be consistent with the ones on the current zoning map, but the commercial and light industrial areas would be new.

Andover's zoning map, which has not been updated since 1974, has no commercial or light industrial zones. Low-density mixed-use is recommended in much of the rest of town. This mixed-use area would allow home-based businesses and farms of all sizes to be mixed in with homes.

What are your ideas? Please come to the public meeting on Monday, September 28. The committee wants to make this a plan that really reflects the ideas of town residents for Andover's future, and *we need your help!* Please come and give us your ideas and opinions.



Over 65 people crowded Bluewater Lodge for an evening of listening and talking about Bradley Lake's water quality and the role of conservation easements in protecting it.
Staff photo: Bob Bussey

Bradley Lake Meeting Spawns Many Action Items

By Mary Anne Broshek
Andover Conservation Commission

On the evening of August 24, the Andover Conservation Commission sponsored a meeting on water quality and conservation easements that was held at the beautiful Bluewater Lodge on Bradley Lake. Bradley Lake is the drinking water supply for Andover village and Proctor Academy.

The meeting was videotaped by Tina Cotton and will be shown on

Andover Cable Channel 8. A DVD can be obtained at the Town Office or either of the Town Libraries when it is available.

Over 65 people attended the meeting to hear the speakers and have the opportunity to ask questions and express their opinions. Paul Susca, Drinking and Groundwater Bureau, New Hampshire Department of Environmental Services (DES), began the meeting with a talk that covered the

See Bradley Lake on page 4

Property Owners Get Revaluation Letter

By Charlie Darling
Beacon staff

In the wake of the Claremont case over school funding, it became state law that property assessments in a given town have to be within 10% of the actual market value of the property at least once every fifth year.

To stay on the right side of the law, Andover has been following a five-year cycle of keeping property values up to date. Here's how the current cycle is playing out:

2006: An assessor visits one third of the properties in town to ensure that the

physical data on file for each property is accurate.

2007: An assessor visits and checks another third of Andover properties.

2008: An assessor visits and checks the remaining Andover properties.

2009: The assessed value of every property in Andover must be updated to its fair market value.

2010: On the fifth year we get a break – nothing has to be done. (In the future, the Selectmen may decide to spread the three years of visits over four years – one quarter of Andover properties in

See Revaluation on page 6



The realignment of the intersection of Routes 4 and 11 in Potter Place is mostly complete. As this issue went to press, asphalt was being laid on a small section of Route 11 west of the bridge; on Potters Road; on Cilleyville Road from Potters Road to Depot Street; and on Depot Street from Cilleyville Road to the new intersection of Routes 4 and 11. The newly-paved town roads will serve as the detour for Route 11 traffic when the bridge is removed and the old underpass filled in. (The rail trail will pass under the new road in a large box culvert.) Removing the bridge has been re-scheduled for next year.
Staff photo: Charlie Darling

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